

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /102 W
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R 250556Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 848
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
SECDEF
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0353

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, XO
SUBJECT: DEMILITARIZATION CONFERENCE OF INDIAN OCEAN STATES

REF A) VICTORI 196 (DTG 031002Z MAR 78) AND PREVIOUS

1. ALTHOUGH SURPRISINGLY NO ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE OF DATES FOR CONFERENCE OF WHAT IS NOW TERMED "PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN", IT IS STILL ANTICIPATED THAT CONFERENCE WILL BE CONVENED IN SEYCHELLES AS SCHEDULED ON APRIL 27 (REFTEL). CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN WILL BE GOS LEFT-WING MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE JACQUES HODOUL, A CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM) SECRETARY GENERAL PAUL BERENGER, THE PRIME MOVER BEHIND CONFERENCE. VENUE OF CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY WILL BE LUXURY-
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CLASS MAHE BEACH HOTEL AND PARTICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE RULING SEYCHELLES PEOPLES UNITED PARTY, MMM, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF REUNION, THE NATIONAL FRONT OF THE MALAGASY SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, AND THE PEOPLES NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMOROS.

2. ACCORDING INDEPENDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER WEEKEND LIFE,

MAIN THEMES OF CONFERENCE WILL BE A) ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE, WITH THE ACCENT ON THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN; B) SOLIDARITY WITH FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE; C) THE STRUGGLE TO ESTABLISH A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, D) THE MORE EQUITABLE EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN OCEAN NATURAL RESOURCES; AND E) THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE PARTIES AND FORCES OF THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS. BERENGER VISITED SEYCHELLES MID-APRIL AND TOLD REPORTERS AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING "BEFORE END OF APRIL".

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, POLISARIO, PATRIOTIC FRONT, ANC, SWAPO, FRELIMO, MPLA, TANZANIA AND THE MALDIVES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO SEND OBSERVERS. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN WHICH OF THESE PROSPECTIVE OBSERVERS WILL ATTEND.

4. SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT RENE, WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY DISPLAYED A DISINTERESTED OR AT LEAST DETACHED ATTITUDE TOWARD CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO DEPART SEYCHELLES LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 27 FOR OFFICIAL VISITS TO PRC AND NORTH KOREA. ASSUMING OFT-POSTPONED CONFERENCE ACTUALLY BEGINS APRIL 27, RENE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FOR POSSIBLE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT OPENING SESSION.
MATTSON

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